

### REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-referenced application based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance.

The drawings are objected to because section lines should be labeled to indicate the figure where the section is shown. Applicant has amended FIGs. 9, 13A, 26, 27, and 28 to label the section lines to indicate the figure where the section is shown. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be removed.

Applicant has amended FIG. 5 to correct mislabeling of a ground contact (top row, second from left).

Claims 1-25 and 28-42 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 28, 33, 40, 41, and 42 are independent claims. Claims 16-22 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-15, 24, and 28-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,358,061 ("Regnier"). The Office action states that the contacts of Regnier may be selectively designated as differential signal pairs (Fig. 8) or single-ended signal conductors (Fig. 9) (Office action at § 4). Figs. 8 and 9 of Regnier, however, depict two different connectors, and not a single connector, as claimed, with contacts that can be selectively designated as either signal contacts or ground contacts. Thus, Regnier discloses two different contacts – a first that may be used as a signal contact and a second that may be used as a ground contact – and two different connectors – a first, depicted in Fig. 8, wherein contacts are arranged in a signal-signal-ground arrangement, and a second, depicted in Fig. 9, wherein contacts are arranged in a signal-ground-signal-ground arrangement.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify that, according to the claimed invention, the contacts of a single connector may be selectively designated, *while the contacts are fixed in the leadframe*, as either ground contacts or signal contacts. Accordingly, the invention provides a single connector in which a given contact may be used in a first designation as a signal contact and, without any physical alteration of the contact, that same contact may be

used in a second designation as a ground contact. Applicant respectfully submits that Regnier does not disclose, teach, or suggest selective designation of an electrical contact as either a ground contact or a signal contact, while the contact is fixed in the lead frame. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-25 and 28-42 patentably define over Regnier.

Claims 1-5, 23-24, and 28-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,220,896 ("Bertoncini"). None of the contacts in the connector of Bertoncini, however, may be selectively designated as either signal contacts or ground contacts while fixed in the leadframe. Clearly, the ground contacts could not be designated as signal contacts because they are electrically connected to the ground shield (Fig. 3, Col. 2, lines 49-52). The ground contacts, therefore, must always be ground contacts, and cannot be selectively designated as signal contacts. Accordingly, the contacts in Bertoncini could not be designated such that, in a first designation, the contacts form at least one differential signal pair comprising a pair of signal contacts, and, in a second designation, the contacts form at least one single-ended signal conductor. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that claims 1-25 and 28-42 patentably define over Bertoncini.

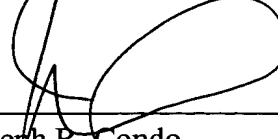
Applicant further respectfully submits that newly added claims 41 and 42 are also allowable because they recite first, second, and third electrical contacts that are arranged adjacent to one another and are electrically isolated from one another. Neither Regnier nor Bertoncini disclose a set of three adjacent electrical contacts that are electrically isolated from one another.

For all the foregoing reasons, a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-25 and 28-42 is respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner believes that the application is not allowable for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

**DOCKET NO.:** FCI-2714/C3549  
**Application No.:** 10/634,547  
**Office Action Dated:** January 18, 2005

**PATENT  
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED  
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO  
37 CFR § 1.116**

Respectfully submitted,

  
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### **Amendments to the Drawings**

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to FIGs. 5, 9, 13A, 26, 27, and 28.

The attached replacement sheets, which include FIGs. 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 4C, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13A, 13B, 14, 15, 16A, 16B, 16C, 17, 18, 19A, 19B, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34A, 34B, 35A, 35B, 36, 37, 38A, 38B, 38C, 39, 40A, 40B, 40C, 41, 42A, 42B, 42C, 42D, 43, 44A, 44B, 44C, 44D, 44E, 45A, 45B, 45C, 45D, 45E, 45F, 46A, 46B, 46C, 46D, 46E, and 46F, replace the original sheets including FIGs. 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 4C, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13A, 13B, 14, 15, 16A, 16B, 16C, 17, 18, 19A, 19B, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34A, 34B, 35A, 35B, 36, 37, 38A, 38B, 38C, 39, 40A, 40B, 40C, 41, 42A, 42B, 42C, 42D, 43, 44A, 44B, 44C, 44D, 44E, 45A, 45B, 45C, 45D, 45E, 45F, 46A, 46B, 46C, 46D, 46E, and 46F.

Attachment: 68 replacement sheets.